Foreign Investment in print media

65. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Move to let in foreign media through the back door" appearing in the Hindu, dated 21st June, 2001;

(b) whether Government propose to allow the foreign investment in the print media;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative would it not tantamount to indirect entry of foreign media?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government continues to be guided by the Cabinet Decision of 195.5, which prohibits publication of foreign owned newspapers/periodicals in the country and Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs.

Indian Entry in the Cannes Film Festival

66. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although there was not a single official entry of Indian film in the annual film festival at Cannes large number of senior officials of her Ministry visited Cannes;

(b) if so, the names of those officials who attended the film festival at Cannes and what was the purpose of their visit.

(c) whether advance approval of the Directorate of Film Festivals was taken before sending a large indian delegation to Cannes;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and